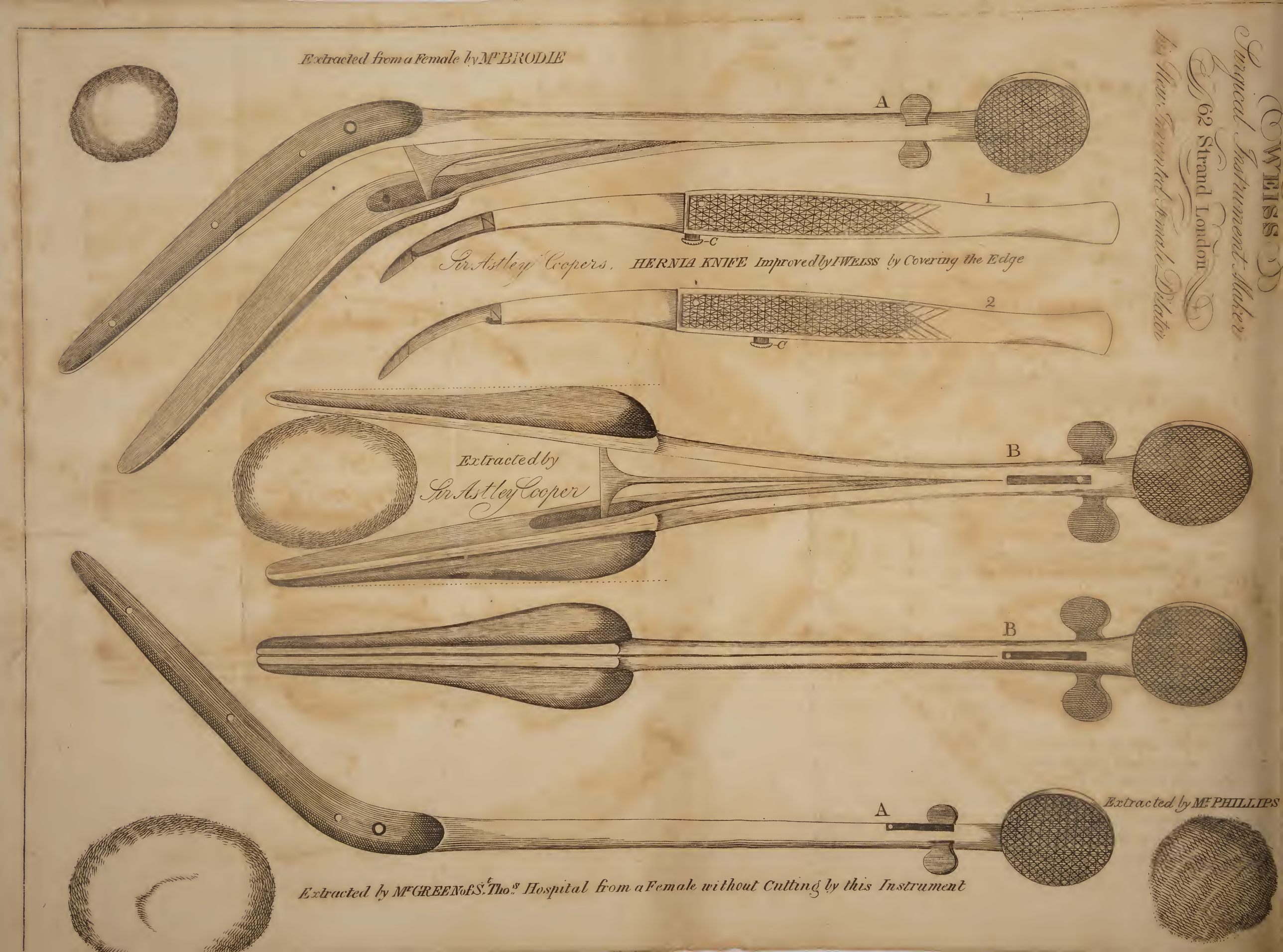
WEISS
Surgical Instrument Maker
62 Strand London
to Hon.ble Trustees Female Dilator
Extracted from a Female by Mr BRODIE
A
1
C
Sir Astley Coopers, HERNIA KNIFE Improved by I. WEISS by Covering the Edge
2
C
B
Extracted by
Sir Astley Cooper
B
A
Extracted by Mr PHILLIPS
Extracted by Mr GREEN of St. Thos. Hospital from a Female without Cutting by this Instrument

EXPLANATION

OF

J. WEISS'S

Female Dilators and Improved Hernia Knife.

The Female Dilator, by turning the handle to the right, will be found to open to any extent you may think proper. The Instrument A has a curve in it, which by some gentlemen is thought an improvement, as it does not take up so much room. The Hernia Knife, letter C, has a small button, which, when you wish to cover the cutting part of the Instrument, you must press with your finger and push it forward.

Mr. Weiss has the honor of laying before the profession, engravings of some Instruments lately invented by himself, and he is happy to say, approved of by several of the most distinguished Surgeons of the metropolis, as will be seen by the annexed letters. He has also to refer to the 12th volume of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, or to page 193 of the 13th No. of the Medico-Chirurgical Review, for some interesting cases published by Sir Astley Cooper, respecting the Female Dilator. Mr. Weiss feels it a justice to add, that the Female Dilator was suggested to him by that distinguished ornament of the profession, Sir Astley Cooper, Bart. and it is most gratifying to his feelings to find that the Instrument has proved so useful in the hands of others.

To Mr. Bransby Cooper Mr. Weiss is also indebted for the suggestion respecting the Improved Hernia Knife, Nos. 1 and 2 in the Plate; which gentleman very frequently mentioned to him that it would be a very great improvement if the cutting part could be covered when introduced: which he has effected to Mr. B. Cooper's great satisfaction.

22, *Lincoln's Inn Fields,*
May 16*th*, 1823.

Sir,

I have great pleasure in offering my testimony to the utility of your Instrument for dilating the female Urethra, and I shall be happy if the following case should contribute to recommend it to the notice of Surgeons.

Mary Wallace, thirty-one years of age, of a delicate frame and irritable constitution, was admitted into St. Thomas's Hospital on the 24th of last October, with well marked symptoms of stone in the bladder. The presence of the calculus was ascertained by sounding; but the operation was deferred, in consequence of her being out of health, until the 22d of November. On that day, I introduced the dilator, and separated the blades until the patient complained of pain; and then waiting till the uneasiness had subsided, I again increased the expansion of the instrument, by means of the screw, till pain was reproduced. In the course of a few minutes the painful sense of stretching and distension was relieved, and I proceeded with the dilatation. In this manner, regulated by the feelings of my patient, I continued gradually and cautiously to enlarge the meatus during two hours and a half. I was then enabled to introduce with ease my fore finger into the bladder; and finding that the calculus was in a favorable position, I introduced a pair of straight forceps, without waiting for further dilatation, and readily seized the stone in its long axis. I proceeded immediately to the extraction; but from the size of the calculus, I was unable to bring it readily through the meatus, and during this attempt she complained of much greater pain than at any time during the dilatation. As I held the stone in the most favorable position, I was however unwilling to quit my hold, and with moderate force, (at least with no more than is ordinarily required, and in no longer time than is frequently necessary, in extracting a large sized stone in the operation of lithotomy,) I succeeded in extricating the calculus. It proved to be of considerable size, as the subjoined accurate admeasurement will fully shew.

She seemed much exhausted by the operation; and this was followed during the first few days by

considerable constitutional irritation, and by symptoms indicating abdominal inflammation. Under the prompt and active measures however, which were taken, she was gradually restored to health. It is particularly worthy of notice, that she passed her urine freely during the whole time; and that she was able, in the course of twelve hours after the operation, to hold her urine more or less perfectly, and to discharge it voluntarily; and that the dilatation of the meatus left ultimately no weakness nor loss of power in retaining her urine.

The above case is, I think, a gratifying proof of the facility with which even a large calculus may be extracted by the aid of the Dilator. The operation might have been effected with less inconvenience had the dilatation been carried on somewhat longer; and I do not doubt that the enlargement of the meatus might be accomplished in much less time, without any difference in the result. The subsequent inflammatory affection and accompanying constitutional irritation I should be disposed to attribute much more to a peculiarity in the constitution of the female, than to any circumstances necessarily connected with the operation. The result of this case, as that of others, evinces, in the circumstance that the patient was relieved without producing incontinence of urine, a decided superiority to the use of the knife, as it regards this essential point.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
JOSEPH HENRY GREEN.

Mr. WEISS,
Surgeon's Instrument Maker,
STRAND.

Pall Mall, 17*th April* 1823.

SIR,

I have the satisfaction to inform you, I have used the Instrument you have invented for dilating the *female* Urethra, and I have found it answer extremely well. I dilated the Urethra with great ease to allow of the introduction of a pair of Forceps, with which I extracted a stone larger than a French bean of the mulberry

kind, which had been in the bladder four years, and had given the woman great pain; the bladder for many months was so irritable, she was obliged to use a Catheter to prevent the acute pain she always felt from the efforts made to expel urine.

I consider your Instrument of great utility, and I hope it will be generally used; and that the female part of the creation will in future (by an early use of it) avoid the usual operation which was almost always followed by an involuntary discharge of urine during the remainder of their lives.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
JOHN PHILLIPS.

To Mr. WEISS.

16, *Saville Row*, *May* 21, 1823.

SIR,

I extracted the calculus which I shewed you lately, from a female patient in St. George's Hospital, by the process of dilating the urethra. I employed for this purpose, the Instrument which you invented, and which has been used and recommended by Sir Astley Cooper. The dilatation was effected very readily, but gradually, in the space of twenty-four hours. The patient suffered little inconvenience afterwards, except from incontinence of urine, which however, ceased to trouble her in less than a fortnight from the time of the operation.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
B. C. BRODIE.

Mr. WEISS,
62, STRAND.

J. BURSLEM, Printer, Blackfriars Road.